

A Tour of BEA's Web Site

THIS REPORT BRIEFLY describes the statistical and other information currently available on BEA's Web site at <www.bea.doc.gov>. The BEA Web site was launched in March 1995 to take advantage of a new medium that would provide users with general information about the Bureau's work. Over time, the amount and variety of information that is available has grown exponentially in response to customer use of the Web site for instant access to BEA's estimates and methodologies. BEA is continually updating and improving the site in order to facilitate access to its information and to incorporate technological advances in Web site management. We welcome comments from users about our Web site; see the entry "Feedback" on page 25.

Below is BEA's home page, the gateway to a wealth of statistical information on the U.S. economy. Clicking on one of the **highlighted items** will take the user to more specific information, as described in the following sections.

Summary Information

Overview of the U.S. economy provides a snapshot of BEA's primary estimates for recent quarters. It includes series from the national, international, and regional programs on production, purchases, prices, personal income, government finances, inventories, and balance of payments.

BEA news releases accesses the latest updates of key national, regional, and international statistics. For the updates of gross domestic product (GDP), personal income, and U.S. international transactions, summaries of the news releases are posted within minutes of the official time of release, and the entire release is posted a few hours later. For the updates of other estimates, the releases are posted as soon after the release time as practicable. A schedule of BEA news releases for 1999 can be accessed by clicking on "1999" at the top of the page.



Bureau of Economic Analysis

BEA, an agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce, is the nation's economic accountant, preparing estimates that illuminate key national, international, and regional aspects of the U.S. economy.

National	International	Regional	Bureau-wide
GDP and related data	Data	Data	BEA's mission
Articles	Articles	Articles	Employment
Industry and wealth data	Survey forms	Other products	Phone Numbers
Overview of the U.S. economy			Catalog of Products
BEA news releases			Feedback
SURVEY of CURRENT BUSINESS and other BEA Publications			What's New
			Tips on using our site

Our Catalog of products gives you another way to find and download data files.	Descriptions of the methodologies used to prepare national, regional, and international estimates are available here.
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SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS and other BEA publications accesses articles, statistical presentations, and other material from BEA's monthly journal. For each issue, a table of contents is provided that links to the individual SURVEY items. The entire contents of the SURVEY is posted about the middle of the month in PDF, and highlighted items are also posted in HTML format. (The availability of the SURVEY is announced each month on the "What's new" page; see [the entry](#) on page 25.)

Catalog of Products accesses descriptions of, and order information for, products that are sold directly by BEA (CD-ROM's, diskettes, and printouts) and publications that are sold through the U.S. Government Printing Office. In addition, each listing of a diskette contains a link that enables users to download a compressed file that contains the contents of that diskette for free.

Descriptions of methodologies accesses information on the sources and methods used to prepare BEA's national, regional, and international estimates. This information consists of SURVEY articles, of previously published methodology papers, and of text from major BEA publications.

National, International, and Regional Statistics

The comprehensive economic information that is prepared by BEA's national, international, and regional programs can be accessed through links to their "data," "articles," and other material. (In addition, detailed estimates from these programs are available as

Dissemination of BEA Information

The economic information prepared by BEA is available in a variety of media. BEA's current national, regional, and international estimates are usually first presented in news releases, which are available to the public on the BEA and the STAT-USA Web sites, on recorded telephone messages, and in printed *BEA Reports*.

More detailed estimates, descriptions of methodologies, and analyses are presented in BEA's monthly journal, *SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS*, which is available on the Web sites and on CD-ROM, as well as in printed form. Additional detailed estimates and methodologies are presented in statistical volumes, on the Web sites, on diskettes, or on CD-ROM's.

More information about BEA's statistical products is available in the "Catalog of Products"; see [the entry](#) on this page.

Finding Key Estimates

The following is a step-by-step guide to locating some of the most frequently requested estimates on the BEA Web site.

- **Real gross domestic product (GDP).** For percent changes in real GDP for recent quarters:

Click on "GDP and related data"

Look in the section "Summary of latest NIPA estimates"

Click on "Tables (HTML)" immediately to the right of "4 tables"

Look under "Table 1"

Click either "Annual and Quarterly" or "Quarterly"

For historical estimates:

Click on "GDP and related data"

Look in the section "Time series estimates"

Click on "HTML" immediately to the right of "4 tables"

Click on "table 2A"

- **Prices of gross domestic purchases and GDP.** For recent quarterly percent changes in the price indexes for gross domestic purchases and for GDP:

Click on "GDP and related data"

Look in the section "Summary of latest NIPA estimates"

Click on "Tables (HTML)" immediately to the right of "4 tables"

Look under "Table 4"

Click either "Annual and Quarterly" or "Quarterly"

For historical estimates:

Click on "GDP and related data"

Look under "Time series estimates"

Click on "HTML" immediately to the right of "4 tables"

Click on "Table 3"

- **Personal income, consumption expenditures, and saving.** For recent monthly estimates:

Click on "BEA news releases"

Click on the most recent release for "Personal income"

For historical annual and quarterly estimates:

Click on "GDP and related data"

Look under "Summary of latest NIPA estimates"

Click on "Tables (HTML)" immediately to the right of "4 tables"

Look under "Table 4"

Click either "Annual and Quarterly" or "Quarterly"

- **Gross product by industry.**

Click on "Industry and wealth data"

Look under "Gross domestic product by industry"

Click on the series desired

- **Stocks of privately owned and government-owned assets.**

Click on "Industry and wealth data"

Look under "Tangible wealth"

Click on "ASCII" immediately to the right of "Zipped data files"

Save the file to your hard disk

Execute the file to "unzip" it

- **Gross state product.**

Look under "Regional"

Click on "Data"

Look under "Gross state product"

Click on the series desired

- **Balance on U.S. current account.**

Look under "International"

Click on "Data"

Look under "Balance of payments"

Click on "Table" to the right of "Summary table from the latest international transactions press release"

downloadable files through BEA's "Catalog of Products"; see [the entry](#) on the previous page.)

National

GDP and related data accesses recent summary estimates, more comprehensive estimates, and historical time series from the national income and product accounts (NIPA's). For example, the most recent set of "Selected NIPA Tables" is provided in text, spreadsheet, PDF, and HTML formats. The entire historical time series for GDP and its major components is also provided in spreadsheet format; look under "Time-series estimates."

Articles accesses the principal articles on the national accounts estimates that have appeared in the SURVEY or other BEA publications. Entries include "A Guide to the NIPA's," "BEA's Chain Indexes, Time Series, and Measures of Long-Term Economic Growth," "U.S. Travel and Tourism Satellite Accounts for 1992," and "Benchmark Input-Output Accounts for the U.S. Economy, 1992."

Industry and wealth data accesses comprehensive current and historical data on gross product by industry and on fixed reproducible tangible wealth in the United States.

International

Data accesses the latest tables of balance of payments data and related information that were published in the SURVEY. It also includes detailed data on U.S. direct investment abroad and on foreign direct investment in the United States. In addition, there is a link to the "IID Product Guide," which contains a comprehensive list of the international investment products and other information about the international investment program.

Articles accesses the principal articles on international transactions and on international investment that have appeared in the SURVEY or other BEA publications. Entries include "U.S. International Transactions, Revised Estimates for 1974-96," "An Ownership-Based Disaggregation of the U.S. Current Account, 1982-93," "Characteristics of Foreign-Owned

U.S. Manufacturing Establishments," and "A Guide to BEA Statistics on U.S. Multinational Companies."

Survey forms accesses the instruction booklets and forms for each of BEA's surveys of foreign direct investment in the United States, of U.S. direct investment abroad, and of U.S. international services transactions. The user can download these materials along with information about the reporting requirements and the classifications used for the survey.

Regional

Data accesses summary and detailed estimates of gross state product, of State personal income and employment, and of local area personal income and per capita personal income. The data can also be accessed for each State by clicking on a map.

Articles accesses the principal articles on the regional accounts estimates that have appeared in the SURVEY or other BEA publications. Entries include "Manufacturing Earnings in BEA Component Economic Areas, 1996," "Gross State Product by Industry, 1977-96," "Comprehensive Revision of State Personal Income," and "Regional Multipliers: A User Handbook for the Regional Input-Output Modeling System (RIMS II), Third Edition."

Other products accesses descriptions of the three regional CD-ROM products and the geographic definitions of metropolitan statistical areas and of BEA economic areas.

Other Highlights

BEA's mission accesses a summary description of BEA's role in the Federal statistical system and a list of the senior managers at BEA. It provides links to key documentation, such as BEA's proposed plan of work for fiscal year 1999 and BEA's strategic plan for maintaining and improving the Nation's economic accounts.

STAT-USA's Web Site

BEA also makes a broad range of its economic information available on the Web site of the Commerce Department's STAT-USA at <www.stat-usa.gov>. In particular, BEA's news releases on gross domestic product and corporate profits, personal income and outlays, and U.S. international transactions are posted in their entirety on the STAT-USA site at, or minutes after, the official time of release. For information about subscribing to STAT-USA's Internet services, call 202-482-1986 or visit their Web site.

File Formats

Most of the textual information on BEA's Web site is available in PDF and HTML formats. Files in PDF (portable document format) retain the look and feel of published documents and when printed, can duplicate the appearance of those documents; however, special software, the free Adobe Acrobat Reader, is required to read PDF files. Files in HTML (hypertext markup language) do not require additional software; however, they may not look the same as the published documents.

Much of BEA's data is available as self-extracting compressed files in spreadsheet (generally Lotus) format or in plain text (ASCII) format. Windows users need no additional software to "uncompress" these files; Mac-Intosh users may need an inexpensive utility program for this purpose.

Employment accesses a listing of current job vacancies at BEA and provides links to additional information about those positions and how to apply for them.

Phone numbers accesses a list of BEA telephone contacts that includes the names and numbers of individual subject matter specialists.

Feedback provides an easy way for users to send questions, suggestions, or comments directly to BEA's webmaster.

What's new provides a listing of presentational changes, of new and updated postings of data, and of other alterations that have recently been made to the BEA Web site.

Tips on using our site accesses specific information about the BEA site, including information on using the various types of files in which information is provided (see the box "File Formats" on the previous page). 